

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12, 14-16, 18, 19 and 26 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim ~~12~~27, wherein the plug has a prismatic shape.

14-16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim ~~12~~27, ~~whereby~~ wherein the plug has an open side in the form of a triangular profiled trough, the generally triangular cross-sectional shape being maintained by said internal support formed by said mesh material.

18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim ~~19~~28, wherein the webs are an integral part of the mesh configured by folding ~~or formed by separate parts bonded to the inner surface of the outer profile.~~

21. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim ~~12~~27, wherein three, ~~or more~~, elongate sub-units are connected to form the prosthesis, ~~each of~~ said sub-units ~~preferably~~ being of a triangular profile.

22. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim ~~12~~27, wherein the external wall ~~of the mesh material~~ is pleated circumferentially, ~~or longitudinally~~ to provide a degree of flexibility and compressibility, to facilitate placement into a defect comprising a hernia.

23. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim ~~12~~27,
~~adapted whereby the mesh wherein the plug may be~~ is cut to an appropriate required dimension
from a stock length piece.

24. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim ~~12~~27,
wherein the plug is formed by a plurality of individual units connected in a longitudinal side-by-
side relationship, ~~preferably with such units individually have a prismatic profile.~~

25. (Currently Amended) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim ~~12~~27,
wherein the mesh material comprises polypropylene ~~with jointing, if required, achieved by heat~~
~~sealing.~~

26. (Canceled)

27. (New) An implantable prosthesis for the repair of muscle wall defects, the prosthesis
comprising a flexible plug of a surgically compatible mesh material, the plug having an elongate
form and comprising an external mesh material wall;

wherein:

the external mesh material wall has three projecting longitudinal ridges or bulges which
provide the plug with a generally triangular cross-sectional shape; and

the plug further comprises an internal support for maintaining the shape of the external
mesh material wall.

28. (New) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the internal
support comprises longitudinal webs internally of the external mesh material wall.

29. (New) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 28, wherein the webs are
an integral part of the mesh material configured by folding.

30. (New) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 28, wherein the webs are formed by separate parts bonded to an inner surface of the external mesh material wall.

31. (New) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 24, wherein said units individually have a prismatic profile.

32. (New) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 27, wherein the external mesh material wall is pleated longitudinally to provide a degree of flexibility and compressibility, to facilitate placement into a defect comprising a hernia.

33. (New) An implantable prosthesis in accordance with claim 23, wherein the mesh material includes at least one joint, said joint being achieved by heat sealing.